



Ms. Virginia Ann Bell Meares

September 25, 1941 - May 5, 2024

Ms. Virginia Ann Bell Meares, 82, of Hartsville, South Carolina, passed away peacefully Sunday, May 5, 2024, surrounded by family.

Born in Hartsville, she was the oldest daughter of the late T. James Bell Sr. and Willah Mae Bell. She was a 1963 graduate of Winthrop College, where she received a bachelor's degree in English Education and wrote and edited for the campus newspaper. Ann taught language arts and English in North Carolina and South Carolina public schools for more than 30 years, including the former Butler Junior High School and Hartsville Junior High School. At Hartsville Junior High, she was the faculty adviser and sponsor for the student newspaper and taught honors English.

After retirement, Ann kept in touch with her many teacher friends and enjoyed going out to lunch and dinner with them. Her former students always loved seeing her out, remembering her fondly. Ann's laugh was infectious, and she possessed a famously keen wit. Over the course of her recent medical treatment, she received great care from several former students who are now nurses, nurse's aides, or physicians.

Ann was a beloved member of Wesley United Methodist Church, where she was active in the women's circle. She was a voracious reader and an avid Clemson Tigers fan, especially men's basketball.

She was preceded in death by a son, Brian Patrick Meares. Survivors include her son, Tom Meares of Hartsville; brothers, Dr. T. James (Nancy) Bell Jr. of Hartsville and Allen Ray (Jane) Bell of Columbia; a sister, Catherine Bell (Dennis) Williams of Columbia; three grandsons, Dylan Meares of Jersey City, New Jersey; Logan Meares of Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Manning Meares of Florence, South Carolina; a granddaughter, Madeline Meares of Florence; several nieces and nephews, and many cousins.

A service of remembrance for Ann will be held Saturday, May 11, at 2 p.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church. The family will receive visitors after the service in the Fellowship Hall. Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home is assisting the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Wesley United Methodist Church.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Elon Baptist Church Cemetery

1132 West Lydia Highway
Hartsville, SC 29550

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY 11. 2:00 PM (ET)

Wesley United Methodist Church
145 E. College Ave.
Hartsville, SC 29550

Tribute Wall

RA

“ Robert R Andrews lit a candle in memory of Ms. Virginia Ann Bell Meares



Robert R Andrews - December 18, 2025 at 07:17 PM



“ Ms Ann was a wonderful friend and role model, we shared books and laughs. I will miss you my friend

Michelle Beam - September 29, 2024 at 07:23 PM

WC

“ My grandmother, Mrs. Edith Chapman taught with Mrs. Mears. Every Summer, right before school started, my brother and I had the privilege of helping our grandmother clean, organize, and set up her room for the coming year. As a part of that experience, "Granny" escorted us around to all the teachers, especially Mrs. Mears. Later, as I entered Junior High, I had the privilege of being one of Mrs. Mears' students. She was and will always be one of the best. Tom and family, we are keeping you in our prayers.

Wayne Chapman - May 27, 2024 at 12:37 PM

LL

“ Today and always, may loving memories bring you peace, comfort, and strength. Love and continued prayers for you all during this time of sorrow. Sending our love, Lori and Randy

Lori Sims Lowe - May 24, 2024 at 12:00 AM

VB

“ Jimmy, Nancy, Andrea and all family members: I am so sorry to hear of Ann's homegoing. She was a delightful lady and loved by so many. She will be missed but we have such great memories to cherish. Prayers for the family during this time of grief. My love to all.

vernion G boyd - May 11, 2024 at 11:09 PM

SH

“ Sarah House lit a candle in memory of Ms. Virginia Ann Bell Meares



Sarah House - May 11, 2024 at 09:40 PM

SH

I can't remember not knowing Ann. We grew up as children in church together and we both took piano from the same teacher. One year we played a duet together in recital. Ann was a little older than me and I certainly looked up to her in admiration. She was such a sweet and kind person. Later, her younger sister Catherine moved to the same town we live in and it seemed like a continuous homecoming.

Sarah House - May 11, 2024 at 09:56 PM



“ You are going to be missed. You were a wonderful teacher. Who listened to her students and did what was best for them. Thank you for being that person.

Rosemary Fincher - May 11, 2024 at 03:10 PM

KC

“ Remebering Ms Meares from Hartsville High School, Class of 1984. I'm sorry for your loss. Praying for you during this time.

Kim Bryant Clanton - May 11, 2024 at 08:42 AM

BM

“ Our thoughts and prayers to the Meares and Bell families

Becky and Bob McWatty - May 10, 2024 at 04:52 PM

LS

“ We are so very sorry for the loss of your Mom..please know you will be in our thoughts and our prayers.



Lisa & Eric Soltero - May 10, 2024 at 06:38 AM

TB

“ Tammy A Barefoot lit a candle in memory of Ms. Virginia Ann Bell Meares



Tammy A Barefoot - May 09, 2024 at 10:36 PM

AG

“ Ms Meares was one of my teachers..she was an amazing lady & will be missed!!!



April Griggs-Woods - May 08, 2024 at 07:08 PM



“ Jimmy,Nancy, Andrea and family, we are so sorry to hear the passing of Mrs.Meares. Prayers and love to all. Ervin and Jackie Gibson



Jackie Gibson - May 08, 2024 at 06:12 PM

DT

“ Tom, I’m so sorry to hear of your mom’s passing. Just know that she is at peace and she is with pasted loved ones. Hold your head up for you are a great son. With all my love, Dana



Dana Munn Tiller - May 08, 2024 at 03:21 PM

EM

“ Tom I am so sorry to hear about your mom’s passing! I remember when she taught at the junior high, and would hear the passion in her voice. I also remember the stories you told me as well. Please remember the good times and keep the memories of her close to your heart.

Emily - May 08, 2024 at 10:14 AM

PL

“ I’m so sad to lose a wonderful friend in Ann. I worked with her for about 20 of my 24 years at Hartsville Jr. High School. We shared so much and became close confidants. She always had a way of minimizing negative things, but not disregarding them, and putting an uplifting angle on it. Often with a genuine laugh; a full on laugh, so hard there were tears too. Ann, save me a place, I’ll see you later!

Love, Peggy

Peggy Lineberger - May 08, 2024 at 09:48 AM

HB

“ Howard Barfield lit a candle in memory of Ms. Virginia Ann Bell Meares



Howard Barfield - May 08, 2024 at 08:08 AM

BW

“ Bobbie Williams lit a candle in memory of Ms. Virginia Ann Bell Meares



Bobbie Williams - May 08, 2024 at 06:52 AM

JW

“ *Jamie Wheless lit a candle in memory of Ms. Virginia Ann Bell Meares*



Jamie Wheless - May 08, 2024 at 06:35 AM

DW

“ *Dianne Woodle lit a candle in memory of Ms. Virginia Ann Bell Meares*



Dianne Woodle - May 07, 2024 at 10:29 PM

RC

“ *Gail and I are so sorry to hear of the passing of the remarkable Mrs. Meares. As teachers, we had high expectations of her, and she did not disappoint us or our daughter Ginger. Richard Culyer*

richard culyer - May 07, 2024 at 07:34 PM

RW

“ *My love and prayers go out for her family. Becky Wadsworth Walker*

Rebecca Wadsworth Walkers - May 07, 2024 at 10:50 AM

DS

“ *Ann was a wonderful person. She was the best teacher that taught Sheila and my two sons at school. You are in our thoughts and prayers. May God be with you at this most difficult time. Love Sheila, Donnie, and Corey Smith*



Donnie Smith - May 07, 2024 at 10:05 AM

JT

“ *Ann was such a kind and lovely person. She taught my son one year at Carolina Elementary. She was one of his favorite teachers during his years there. Prayers for her family.*

Jane Tedder - May 07, 2024 at 09:35 AM

LW

“ *Such a gracious lady.*



Letitia Ward - May 07, 2024 at 09:24 AM

DA

“ *Prayers for the family. I can remember the times that she came to the office. Yes, her laugh was contagious.*



DeNeen Hardwick Allen - May 07, 2024 at 09:12 AM

JA

“ *PRAYERS FOR THE FAMILY*



JIMMY ANDREWS - May 07, 2024 at 09:07 AM

BW

“ *Praying for family
Brittany Wright- cna Mccoy nursing home*



Brittany wright - May 07, 2024 at 08:50 AM

PJ

“ *Prayers for the family.*



Pat James - May 07, 2024 at 08:48 AM

PS

“ *Pam Smith lit a candle in memory of Ms.
Virginia Ann Bell Meares*



Pam Smith - May 07, 2024 at 08:26 AM

RM

“ *May she rest in peace.*

Rachel Adams Doyle Medlin



Rachel Medlin - May 07, 2024 at 08:15 AM

RT

“ *Roberta Driskell Timmons sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Virginia Ann Bell Meares*



Roberta Driskell Timmons - May 07, 2024 at 07:42 AM

RT

What a beautiful teacher and friend. Praying for the Bell family. May God give you the peace that surpasses all understanding that only he can give.

Roberta Driskell Timmons - May 07, 2024 at 07:45 AM

LE

“ *Larry Easterling lit a candle in memory of Ms. Virginia Ann Bell Meares*



Larry Easterling - May 07, 2024 at 05:54 AM

KJ

“ *Kathi G. Johnson sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Virginia Ann Bell Meares*



Kathi G. Johnson - May 06, 2024 at 11:21 PM

JB

“ *Prayers for this special family. May God wrap you each in his loving arms. Love in Christ.*

Janelle Britt - May 06, 2024 at 10:50 PM

SS

“ *Scarlet And Mark Shealy lit a candle in memory of Ms. Virginia Ann Bell Meares*



Scarlet and Mark Shealy - May 06, 2024 at 09:35 PM

KL

“ *Kathy Lawhon lit a candle in memory of Ms. Virginia Ann Bell Meares*



Kathy Lawhon - May 06, 2024 at 08:47 PM

MG

“ Mitchell And Jackie Gainey lit a candle in memory of Ms. Virginia Ann Bell Meares



Mitchell and Jackie Gainey - May 06, 2024 at 08:42 PM

VN

“ Vickie And David Newsome lit a candle in memory of Ms. Virginia Ann Bell Meares



Vickie and David Newsome - May 06, 2024 at 08:36 PM

GM

“ Goode & Gail Mobley lit a candle in memory of Ms. Virginia Ann Bell Meares



Goode & Gail Mobley - May 06, 2024 at 08:26 PM

CM

“ Cherry McCoy lit a candle in memory of Ms. Virginia Ann Bell Meares



Cherry McCoy - May 06, 2024 at 08:05 PM

WW

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with all the family. Ann was a wonderful lady. I'll always remember her fondly.* ”



Wittie Waldron - May 06, 2024 at 04:21 PM

LR

“ *Lester And Lori Reynolds lit a candle in memory of Ms. Virginia Ann Bell Meares* ”



Lester and Lori Reynolds - May 06, 2024 at 03:54 PM

JH

“ *June Hyman lit a candle in memory of Ms. Virginia Ann Bell Meares* ”



June Hyman - May 06, 2024 at 03:36 PM

SC

“ *Susan Braddock Clemmons lit a candle in memory of Ms. Virginia Ann Bell Meares* ”



Susan Braddock Clemmons - May 06, 2024 at 02:53 PM

AN

“ Prayers and love for all of the precious Bell Family. So many wonderful memories spending many days at the College Avenue home. Special love for Catherine..Love, Anna



AnnaWilliams - May 06, 2024 at 02:29 PM

JE

“ Jonnie Thomas Estermyer lit a candle in memory of Ms. Virginia Ann Bell Meares



Jonnie Thomas Estermyer - May 06, 2024 at 02:15 PM

DS

“ Danny And Phoebe Stokes sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Virginia Ann Bell Meares



Danny and Phoebe Stokes - May 06, 2024 at 02:10 PM

SB

“ Mrs Meares was a wonderful teacher. Tom, praying for you and your family.



Sharon Byram - May 06, 2024 at 01:35 PM

GO

“ Tom your mom was one of a kind I enjoyed having her as my English teacher at HJHS.. her smile always stole many hearts. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers Love you like a brother, my friend. Always reflect back on the memories you cherished with Ann, they will last a lifetime.



Grady O'Neal - May 06, 2024 at 01:29 PM

BF

Dr. Bell and family so sorry to about Ann . Sending thoughts and prayers to the family.

Brenda Floyd - May 06, 2024 at 03:01 PM

HJ

Dr Bell and Tom, We are so saddened to hear of Ann's passing. She was a sweet and caring person to everyone. She will be missed. Love Hobby and Steve Jeffords

Hobby Jeffords - May 06, 2024 at 06:32 PM

GG

“ So sorry for loss of this special lady! Prayers are lifted for family and friends!



Gene and Teresa Gibson - May 06, 2024 at 12:54 PM

SA

“ *Sheila Atkinson lit a candle in memory of Ms. Virginia Ann Bell Meares*



Sheila Atkinson - May 06, 2024 at 12:46 PM

JM

Ann was such a good friend, she will be missed by so many people. She is in her happy place. Love to Tom and family, Janice and Dan Miles

Janice Miles - May 07, 2024 at 10:45 AM

CM

“ *So sorry for your loss praying for your family*



Crystal T Minnehan - May 06, 2024 at 12:02 PM

MW

So sorry for your loss!!!

Margie Walker - May 06, 2024 at 06:24 PM

GL

Gerald and I are sending prayers for the family. May God comfort you all. Ann was a wonderful lady! Heaven gained another wonderful spirit!

Gerald and Cathy Lynch - May 06, 2024 at 07:16 PM